European war - Religious and moral aspects
22:31

REPORT

to the

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA

on

International and European Relations

By
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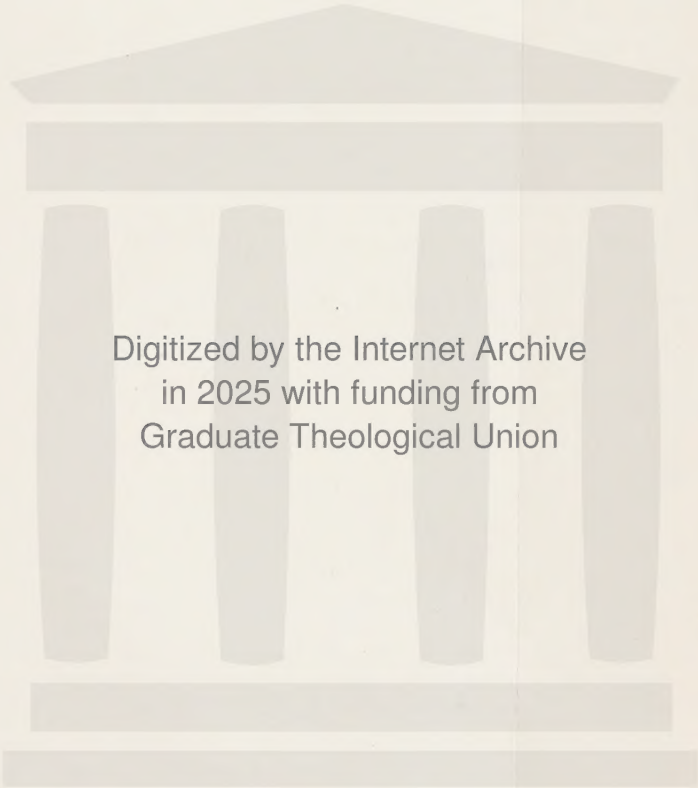
General Secretary

SEPTEMBER 22, 1922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Report to the Administrative Committee of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America on International and European Relations

A few days were spent in London interviewing representatives of the Church bodies, including Rev. Thomas Nightingale, General Secretary of the Free Church Council, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, who graciously invited me to lunch at Lambeth Palace, and Miss Lucy Gardner, the Director of the proposed Conference of Church Representatives on Social, Economic and International Affairs.

The Archbishop, while expressing interest in the various federative and co-operative movements, feels that the Conference on Faith and Order is of the highest importance and should take first place in the thought of the Church. He expressed warm appreciation of our action in sending Dr. Zelie as our representative to Russia.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

The World Alliance for International Friendship

This body, whose International Committee met at Copenhagen August 5-10, is assuming large proportions and gaining wide influence throughout the world. The meeting at Copenhagen brought together an imposing representation of World Christianity, which, while voluntary, was very strong in its personnel. The discussions, dealing with exceedingly delicate and difficult problems, were on a high level, and while not without animation were conducted in a spirit of deep sympathy and brotherhood, the resulting actions being in practically every case unanimous.

The reports of the work of the year indicated that Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, who has acted as International Organizer, supported by the voluntary services of Sir Willoughby Dickinson, Dr. Frederick Lynch and others, has accomplished the task of organizing the groups in Europe with remarkable skill and patience and with resulting solidity, while at the same time covering widely distributed territory.

The subject of Religious Minorities received marked attention as the result of the visitations of Dr. Atkinson and his associates, and the clear information gathered from several sections of Europe where this is a very vital question.

A message from the Commission on International Justice and Goodwill of the Federal Council was presented; the American representation was unusually strong in personnel, and the presiding officer was Rev. Nehemiah Boynton, Chairman of the International Committee. I need not dwell further on this Conference as its full report will soon be available, other than to say that this body is becoming a real power, inducing the results which its name implies. Its service in developing international groups and relationships is of highest importance, because this has less care from other agencies than the work in America and the World Alliance might well give itself even entirely to the international field. The World Alliance is a great help in the cause of Christian co-operation, but is of course not to be considered as a substitute for church federations nor as relieving them of co-operative work in any field, but rather as stimulating these bodies to make International Friendship one of their outstanding objectives.

The "Bethesda" Conference of European Churches

This Conference is so named because it met in the Bethesda Mission House in Copenhagen, August 10-12. It was called as "The International Church Congress for investigating the situation of Protestantism in Europe."

It will be recalled that last November the Conference of American Religious Bodies which considered our European Relations, indicated the willingness of the Federal Council to assist in arranging and to participate in a Conference of the European Churches, if desired. The Swiss Protestant Federation, thereupon, took the initiative, the result being that this Conference was called by official representatives of the Swiss, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and Dutch Church bodies.

In response to the invitation extended to the Federal Council by these Churches, we were represented by Bishop James Cannon, Jr., Chairman, Bishop W. B. Beauchamp, Rev. Arthur J. Brown, Rev. Lauritz Larsen, Rev. Frederick Lynch, Fennell P. Turner (alternate for Rev. James I. Good), and the General Secretary. Other members of the

Conference were Bishop John L. Nuelsen, Rev. E. H. Rawlings, and Dr. D. A. Sloan, representing the Methodist bodies in Europe. The following also accepted informal invitations to sit with the Conference: Rev. Henry A. Atkinson, Rev. William Adams Brown, Rev. Peter Ainslie, and Rev. Samuel A. Eliot.

This is the first time, in modern history, that the Church bodies of Europe have ever met in an officially representative gathering. The Conference had been carefully prepared for by Dr. Adolph Keller, Secretary of the Swiss Federation, and its success was largely due to his unselfish voluntary service, while caring for a large Parish. A volume of printed reports was prepared in advance, setting forth the condition and needs of the Continental Churches. The American report did not attempt to set forth what had been done by American Churches for European relief, but confined itself to a statement of our own situation and our methods of relief work.

The gathering consisted of about 75 officially appointed representatives of 37 Church bodies, of 21 European nations, as follows: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Esthonia, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Lettland, Norway, Poland, Roumania, Serb-Croat-Slovene State, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland. Reports were also presented of the Churches in the Ukraine and Lithuania.

The Church bodies were the Lutheran, Reformed, Methodist, Baptist, and the several known as Evangelical, as well as the State Churches of several nations. The personnel was representative in its quality as well as its official standing.

It was an impressive gathering, prayerful, mutually sympathetic, brotherly. It showed how close we may be brought together by mutual suffering and need. Of course the spirit of co-operation and federation developed hour by hour. In the case of Great Britain, France, Switzerland and Germany, the delegates either represented National Federations or were associated with them. Some prophetic spirits were even ready to organize a Federation of the Churches of Continental Europe on the spot. The final action of the Conference was as follows:

> "This conference consisting of seventy-two representatives of European Churches or Church Federations in twenty different countries considers it desirable, in view of the distress existing in many Protestant

churches, that a united relief action for European Protestant churches be organized and for this purpose considers itself as representing European Protestantism.

"The Conference, therefore, elects an Executive Committee, consisting of the representatives of the various churches which have issued the invitation to the present conference and authorizes said committee to appoint additional members. This committee delegates the administration to a European central office, which, however, is not to take the place of the organizations as they exist in the various churches and countries.

"The Swiss Evangelical Church Federation is herewith requested to undertake the organization of said central office with the assistance of the other churches.

"The Executive Committee in a later meeting decided to add Bishop Nuelsen, Dr. Morehead, Dr. Fleming and Dr. Rushbrooke as experts in European relief work and Dr. Macfarland as advisory member representing the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America."

It is expected that the Swiss Federation will accept this responsibility, conditioned upon the co-operation of the British, Scandinavian, Dutch and American Churches.

I need not report more fully, as the Secretary, Dr. Keller, is now preparing a full report which will soon be available.

Representatives of several nations intimated the desire of their church bodies to send representatives to America to reveal their situation, and were given assurance that the Federal Council would warmly welcome them and do everything possible to further their mission.

The Committee of Arrangements was received by the King of Denmark, who expressed deep interest in the Conference, in a very frank, personal and simple way.

I may add that, with the advice and consent of the American delegates, I assumed the obvious responsibility for the entire expense of the Conference, amounting to about $2,000, with faith that the Denominational Boards co-operating in the Federal Council Commission on Relations with Religious Bodies in Europe will agree to divide it between them. Surely this is hardly to be considered excessive for a Conference that is of such far-reaching and prophetic significance.

As to the future, it is proposed that the Commission on Relations with Religious Bodies in Europe shall call an early Conference, similar to the one held last November,

to consider our part in the movement so providentially begun. Just as all Europe looks to America for help in her economic and political ills, so the Churches of Europe look to the Churches of America for moral and material help. No one at the Bethesda Conference doubted that God was leading us. He will lead us in America to meet our obligations, with a strength and with resources equal to our faith. Your representatives at this meeting will have many situations to report to the coming Conference, which will be startling in their significance for the Evangelical Church. God has opened up a new Mission field before us, which is neither home nor foreign, but which will give us an opportunity to reveal the Gospel in enlarged power to the eyes of the world.

As to the question of co-operative relationship between the historic Churches and the work instituted by American Church bodies, I am more and more convinced that it is largely a question of the personality of leadership. What is needed in Europe is brotherliness, and the first requisite on the part of Americans who go to Europe, in whatever capacity, is that they shall be great-hearted, brotherly men. Such men are finding the way to solve the problems of mutual relationship. I may be pardoned if, simply because of closer acquaintance with his work, I mention Bishop John L. Nuelsen as one who impresses upon me the obvious principle that I have emphasized.

Professor William Adams Brown, who followed these events with his customary insight, suggests that a representative of the Federal Council could spend six months or a year on a brotherly visitation to the European Churches for conference and prayer, and render a service in a large way, which cannot be met by similar service of denominational representatives with their primary denominational tasks. I heartily concur in Professor Brown's judgment.

American Protestantism should be deeply concerned in view of the fact that European Protestantism is weak, just when the Roman Catholic Church is seeking and, through the blindness of political leaders, gaining at least a nominal temporal power. It is not a mere question of proselytising. It does not involve the arousing of religious prejudice. Nor can it be met simply by the establishment of denominational evangelizing stations. The success of such work is itself dependent upon maintaining the strength of the historic Churches. Protestantism in Europe, as a whole, depends today in large measure upon the help of the British, Scan-

dinavian, Dutch, Swiss and American Churches, and the weight of this responsibility rests heavily upon America. Our Commission on Relations with Religious Bodies in Europe needs to be, at this moment, one of our strongest departments.

It is recommended, therefore, that a Conference of our constituent forces be held, at an early date, to give to this question a serious consideration such as it has never yet received.

THE FRIENDLY VISITORS

Gratifying testimony came from several quarters of the helpful service of some of those who were commissioned as Friendly Visitors. If the Pastors and Christian men and women who go to Europe realized the encouragement and help which these visitations and messages give to our brethren in Europe they would more seriously avail themselves of this simple but serviceable opportunity. The majority of them appear to confine their acquaintance to hotels, museums, galleries, ruins, boulevards and cafés, and if they give any thought to religious institutions, it appears to be confined to the Cathedrals.

The Joint Committee on Interchange

The exchange of pulpits participated in by Dr. Jefferson and his associates in Great Britain created deep interest on all sides and from all quarters. At a time when the greatest need in the United States is that of understanding and sympathy towards struggling Europe, all of these means of interpretation are of the highest value.

The following statement has been issued as the general judgment of our friendly visitors:

> The Friendly Visitors to Europe, appointed by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, submit the following comprehensive statement of their judgment to the Federal Council:
>
> 1. It is clearly evident that the Protestant Church bodies and institutions of Continental Europe are showing courage, patience, fortitude and faith in their efforts to meet the prevailing distressing conditions economically, morally and spiritually.
>
> 2. They have not only these conditions to meet, but also the strongly aggressive attitude of religious autocracy supported in some cases by political influence.
>
> 3. They look to the Christian Churches of America, constituting the Federal Council, for moral sympathy and support, and for material help for their sadly depleted resources, with an eagerness which, while

delicately and appropriately expressed, is frank and open, together with an evident sense of disappointment which is not expressed, but clearly felt.

4. It needs only an ordinary contact with Continental Europe to make clear the fact that her political problems are fundamentally economic, that the European nations can never meet the problems caused by the War, in which the United States was a participant, without the sympathetic counsel, advice, and economic help of the United States, arranged in mutual conference.

5. We believe that the delay of our nation in entering into this great need of the world is responsible, in some measure, for the deepening confusion of the present moment.

6. We believe that these nations will readily assent to any reasonable and just proposal from the United States which has, even yet, though in danger of being lost by indecision, an opportunity for moral leadership such as no nation ever had before in history.

7. The peoples of Europe, for the most part, are contending heroically against their adverse conditions. Where this is not the case it is largely due to discouragement after eight years of accumulating disaster, and they would respond to the encouragement and stimulus which alone can come from America.

On the whole, our visitations with our European brothers and sisters deepen our faith in humanity, and we recommend that the Federal Council, through its appropriate commissions, do its utmost to develop in our people and in their political leaders, the sense of the moral responsibility which today, in the Providence of God, has fallen to us as a people.

PETER AINSLIE
ANSON P. ATTERBURY
HARRIET S. L. BARNES
SYLVESTER W. BEACH
W. B. BEAUCHAMP
NEHEMIAH BOYNTON
ARTHUR J. BROWN
S. PARKES CADMAN
JAMES CANNON, JR.
A. Z. CONRAD
B. F. DICKISSON
W. H. P. FAUNCE
JAMES H. FRANKLIN
WILLIAM S. FUERST
WALTER C. GIBBS
ROY B. GUILD
HERBERT PERCY HAMES
HUBERT C. HERRING
IVAN LEE HOLT
LYNN H. HOUGH
ROY M. HOUGHTON
CHARLES E. JEFFERSON
HENRY GODDARD LEACH
EUFAULA L. LEE
FREDERICK LYNCH
HENRY NOBLE MACCRACKEN
CHARLES S. MACFARLAND
JOHN A. MARQUIS
REGINALD L. MCALL
L. W. MCCREARY
ARTHUR C. MCGIFFERT
WILLIAM P. MERRILL
JOHN L. NUELSEN
GEORGE A. PLIMPTON
KARL K. QUIMBY
LUTHER A. RICE
ERNEST C. RICHARDSON
W. W. ROCKWELL
CHARLES E. SCHAEFFER
FRED B. SMITH
SAMUEL P. SPRENG
FENNELL P. TURNER
C. V. VICKREY
CLARENCE A. VINCENT
H. E. WOOLEVER
JOHN SHERIDAN ZELIE

The reports of some of the Friendly Visitors are deeply interesting. Several of them refer specially to the importance of the new Federal Council in Germany. Practically all of them express gratification at the rapid increase of co-operative relations between the European churches. They all refer to the earnest appeal of the churches of Europe to America for moral help and leadership.

The Universal Conference on Life and Work

The close association of the Federal Council with the inception of this movement makes it of special interest to the Administrative Committee. It will be recalled that at the Quadrennial Meeting of 1916 the report of the General Secretary contained a recommendation looking towards a world conference of this nature. It was referred with power to the Administrative Committee which authorized conference and correspondence with other church bodies, and the Executive Committee appointed a committee known as the Committee on Ecumenical Conference, leading to final action in the early part of 1919.

Meanwhile, in 1917 and 1918, the Archbishop of Upsala, Sweden, and the Swiss Federation issued somewhat similar proposals. The result was that at the meeting of the World Alliance in Holland in 1919 a committee consisting of the Archbishop of Upsala, Rt. Rev. Nathan Soederblom, Dean Herold of the Swiss Federation and the General Secretary of the Federal Council arranged a conference in Paris which requested Dr. Lynch to take the matter up with the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. The preparatory Conference was called at Geneva in 1920 by the Federal Council. The provisional officers were Archbishop Soederblom, chairman, and Rev. Charles S. Macfarland and Rev. Frederick Lynch, general secretaries.

Since that time the progress has been slow but real and the Executive Committee of the International Committee of Arrangements met August 12-15, at Helsingborg, Sweden. This meeting made a distinct advance. It was held in the Council room of the Town Hall, with Archbishop Soederblom as chairman.

A committee of which Prof. William Adams Brown is chairman, was appointed to outline the program of subjects to be considered by the ultimate conference, which it is proposed to hold at Stockholm in 1925.

Permanent officers of the International Committee were elected as follows:

Chairmen: The Archbishop of Upsala, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rev. Arthur J. Brown.

Vice-Chairmen: Rev. J. A. MacClymont, Ex-Moderator of the Church of Scotland; Rev. Charles S. Macfarland, General Secretary of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America; Rev. Dr. Moeller, President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Germany; Archbishop Germanos of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Secretariat: Rev. Henry A. Atkinson, General Executive Secretary; Rev. Thomas Nightingale, Rev. Adolf Keller, Prof. J. Eugene Choisy, Associated Secretaries.

The Executive Committee consists of these officers and is instructed to arrange a meeting of the International Committee in 1923.

A question of interest to the Administrative Committee of the Federal Council is that of the relationship of the American Section of this body to the Federal Council in the interest of simplicity, effectiveness and unity. Inasmuch as the organization approved at Helsingborg will call for reconsideration and reorganization on the part of the American section, it is hereby recommended that the Administrative Committee appoint a committee to consult with the Executive Committee of the American Section of the Conference on Life and Work, in this interest.

The meeting in Helsingborg was characterized by a unity of spirit and a sense of mutual sympathy which can overcome the many difficulties involved, provided the future procedure is also characterized by the wise management for which the meeting endeavored to prepare. Courtesies were extended to the members by the Crown Prince of Sweden and Count Wachtmeister, both of whom expressed warm interest. The devotional services and the religious spirit of the various sessions were as marked features as the transaction of executive matters.

As a world movement, this would seem to have the lead so far as practical and early possibilities of unity are concerned.

THE HUGUENOT-WALLOON TERCENTENARY COMMISSION

Holland

The proposals of this Commission aroused deep interest on the part of the church leaders and public officials in the three nations concerned and, judging by the press, awakened no small popular sympathy.

On the way to Denmark, conferences were held, at the Hague, with Mr. W. Westerman of the Netherland-America Foundation, Dr. D. Plooij of the Pilgrim Fathers Commission and Rev. Paul Berthault of the Walloon Church, with the understanding that they would confer regarding the setting up of a co-operating commission.

At the same time a memorandum was left with Mr. Louis Sussdorf of the American Legation and Mr. Snouck Hurgrouje of the Foreign Office, to be brought to the attention of the Queen. The Foreign Minister, Dr. Van Karnebeeke also telegraphed an expression of his interest from Switzerland.

Upon learning of our plans, the Queen expressed her warm interest and I was invited to come to her summer palace to be received by her, on August 17th, in the company of Count Bentinck.

The Queen was deeply interested in the historical statement which we reviewed, expressed her warm sympathy, and gave considerable encouragement in response to the invitation to visit America in 1924. Grateful mention should be made of the courtesies extended by Baron Bentinck and Marshal Boreel of the Dutch Government.

Belgium

At Brussels a conference was held with representatives of the churches and the Church Historical Society, to assure the appointment of a co-operating commission in Belgium.

Baron de Cartier, Belgian Ambassador, had also consulted with the Foreign Minister, M. Jaspar, and other representative Belgians. M. Jaspar expressed warm sympathy. By invitation of Baron de Cartier a conference was held with King Albert, whose sympathetic interest was very marked. We went over the historical background of our plans, bringing out many interesting features which are not very well known either in Belgium or America. The King accepted his election as an Honorary Chairman and expressed pleasure at the invitation to come again to America.

The courtesy of Baron de Cartier and Count Guy d'Oultremont, Adjutant of the Palace, should be gratefully acknowledged.

France

In Paris, the matter was laid before the Council of the French Protestant Federation from which we are assured of warm co-operation, largely through the French Protestant Historical Society.

The President of the Republic being out of the city, our plans were, by invitation, placed before the Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Poincaré, together with a review of the influence of the French Huguenots in the early and later development of American life and institutions.

There is little doubt but what this Tercentenary will evoke a popular interest in all three countries as well as in the United States.

There are two matters which should be especially considered by the Commission, as well as its general program already proposed.

1. The creation of a Tercentenary Fund for the present Huguenot Institutions in France and Belgium.

2. The organization of a Pilgrimage, especially of Huguenot descendants, in 1923 or 1924, to the homes of both ancient and modern Huguenots and Walloons in France, Belgium and Holland, with appropriate ceremonies in each place.

Important historical interests will be evoked by this Commission which will be as new and interesting in these three nations as in our own and there are evident practical present day interests which may be served by this event.

THE CHURCHES IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM

Belgium

I have never had a more heartening visit since we entered into relationship with our brethren in France and Belgium.

In Belgium it was gratifying to find the three Protestant bodies, the so-called State Church, the Missionary Church and the Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, together in their common headquarters, called La Maison Fraternelle. It is to be hoped that this may be a symbol of the spirit of the mutual co-operation to which they will come in their practical work. Neither the native historic churches, nor the work initiated from America, can

be effective except as it is thoroughly imbued with mutual sympathy of spirit and hearty co-operative planning and execution, each group being on equal terms with the others without regard to numerical size or resources. That Bishop Beauchamp will lend himself heartily to this service and opportunity we may be fully persuaded.

Protestantism in Belgium, numerically small as it is, is a leavening influence, especially in the mining and industrial sections and, as in France, through certain strong personalities to be found, here and there, occupying positions of trust and responsibility in the National life and representing Belgium in International affairs, of whom there are some striking examples.

This year I took occasion, on Sunday, with Fennell P. Turner, to visit one of the historic villages, Maria-Hoorbeeke, where the Protestant population is relatively strong. We found the church closed, because the Pastor, with his church officers and choir had gone to a town several miles away, to hold outdoor evangelistic services. We followed him and participated in a very informal but deeply interesting meeting, attended by a rather non-sectarian gathering and heard a very convincing address by the editor of the Flemish daily paper of Brussels.

Anyone getting a close acquaintance with the Protestant churches in Belgium will discover something more than a conservatism induced by years of repression as a minority, and will find, especially among the younger pastors, a vitality which only needs a larger opportunity, in order to provide a foundation on which to build.

It is to be regretted that American religious life is contributing, not only the co-operative support proposed by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, but a spirit of divisiveness emanating from the group calling themselves Fundamentalists, who are now active in Belgium in what appears to be other than a constructive spirit.

Most of the church officials were away from the city or just leaving, but Mr. Turner and I were the recipients of the courtesy and attention of Chaplain in Chief Pierre Blommaert, with whom we visited the devastated regions in process of reconstruction and also from Mr. Wilmot of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The Churches in France

The situation in France is encouraging, especially when one looks at it in contrast to five years ago, when we first entered into real relations with it.

The Paris Building

The first Federation of Churches in the world, to possess and occupy its *own* building is the French Protestant Federation. By invitation of the Council, on August 28, I passed over the keys of this building to the President of the Federation. It is reasonably well located on Rue de Clichy, not far from the Gare St. Lazare, and will ultimately furnish over forty office rooms, with opportunity for conference rooms, book store and other common facilities. The first body to occupy it, other than the Federation, the French Protestant Committee and the United Committee for War Relief, will be the Central Evangelical Society.

The American representatives participating were Rev. Charles E. Jefferson, Rev. Chauncey W. Goodrich and Rev. A. H. Fish. No co-operative development in Europe, during the past five years, has surpassed that of the French churches.

Churches in Devastated Regions

The rebuilding of the churches has progressed rapidly, considering the difficulties faced. During the summer the commencement of the building at Chateau Thierry was participated in by Rev. Charles E. Schaeffer.

I had the pleasure of preaching the first sermon in the commodious structure at St. Quentin, September 3, whose corner-stone I laid in 1920. It was a special pleasure to visit the church at Verdun, now completely restored, although the manse has not yet been begun.

Our Friendly Visitors to Rheims express warm satisfaction at the new church there. The little village of Nauroy, which was practically battered out of existence, has one of the first churches to be rebuilt. Encouraging progress was reported from many other quarters.

In General

One of the most pleasant experiences was the Sunday I preached at Enghien-les-Bains, and witnessed the parish work of Victor Monod, including the new chapel built five miles away from his church where he also ministers each Sabbath.

It was a pleasure to hear the mutual expressions of our corresponding representatives, André Monod and Bishop Blake, with regard to the co-operative spirit in which they are seeking to carry on their common work.

Our Commission on Relations with France and Belgium must not look towards an early cessation of its work. The hoped-for reparations from Germany have not materialized and the churches have received little in the way of loans or subsidies. They need more than their normal resources to carry on their normal parish, home mission and foreign mission work. What is needed to recover from their devastation must come from their brothers and sisters in other lands and mainly from ourselves.

Our delay this year in securing the small portion of their budget which we sought to secure, is causing them great embarrassment, just at the moment when their opportunity is greatest and when hostile forces are stronger than they have been for many years.

Are they doing their part? No one coming into close touch with such men as André Monod, Georges Lauga, Wilfred Monod, Elie Gounelle, Jules Jezequel, Jacques Pannier, Victor Monod, Pastor Barraud at Verdun, and numberless others, would ever have even the hint of such a question.

Are they reaching out into the field? Let the great Congress on Social Christianity at Strasburg be the answer.

Are they seeking the masses? Study the work of the Central Evangelical Society.

Have they the Missionary spirit? Look at the tremendous task they are undertaking in the French Colonies and their work in Northern Africa.

Are they doing their part in civic life? Inquire of the associates of Paul Fuzier in the Council of State, General Nivelle on the War Board, Jules Siegfried in the Chamber of Deputies, and the multitude of judges all over the country.

In International affairs, go to the International Court of Justice, where André Weiss represents France, or study the staff of the League of Nations and the various International Conferences, where you find influential Protestant officials.

How about Social Institutions? In August, Dr. J. H. M. Knox of the American Red Cross participated in the dedication of the splendid new building of the Florence Nightin-

gale Hospital, where Dr. Hamilton first introduced trained nurses into France. Paul Doumergue's School of Social Instruction has high standing among educators.

In Woman's Work? The President of the National Suffrage Association is Madame DeWitt Schlumberger, and associated with her, until her recent death, was Madame Jules Siegfried.

Go to the Sorbonne, the French Institute, anywhere, and witness the extent of Protestant leadership. Look into professional life and you find that the President of the Society of Engineers is also President of the French Protestant Federation. You stumble upon them, everywhere, so to speak.

Many pleasant echoes of the friendly visitation of Mrs. James C. Colgate were heard, and the new work of the McAll Mission at St. Quentin was witnessed with great pleasure.

I have discovered that my early enthusiasm for this service was not merely something aroused in 1918 under the exciting environment of the moment, and I am ready to stand by the report made at that time, with deepened emphasis.

The healthy state of the Schools of Theology at Paris, Strasburg and Montpellier is very encouraging. Arrangements have been proposed for a course of lectures by Professor William Adams Brown, at one of the seminaries, to be known as "Lectures on the Federal Council Foundation." The readiness with which their young men avail themselves of opportunity to study in American Seminaries is gratifying and we ought to afford many more such scholarships for them.

THE WALDENSIAN CHURCHES IN ITALY

As I was unable to go to Italy, I requested Miss Antonia Froendt, Assistant to the Secretary of the Commission on Relations with Religious Bodies in Europe, to do so, and her report is as follows:

"When I reached Torre Pellice, the Protestant capital of Northern Italy, I was rather nervous, because I began to realize that I was now not merely a tourist, but a 'representative' of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. The responsibility rather weighed upon me! However, the moment I saw again the kindly face of Dr. Tron, who had been a frequent visitor at our office in New

York, and when I had heard the cordial words of welcome with which Dr. Rostan, the secretary of the Waldensian Synod, met me at the entrance of the station, my spirits rose very rapidly indeed.

"The next morning I presented myself at the Casa Valdese, the headquarters of the Waldensians, where the Synod and the Tavola (the executive board) meet, and where its executives have their offices. I had the honor of meeting Dr. Leger, the Moderator of the Waldensian Synod and a number of the members of the Tavola whose names had been previously familiar to me from our correspondence. Dr. Rostan very kindly acted as my guide to the various points of interest in the neighborhood and accompanied me through the splendidly equipped and modern buildings of the Waldensian college, the principal church, the interesting little museum, and other welfare institutions. I was impressed most of all with the new memorial dormitory which is now nearly completed. It is almost entirely built by contributions from the Waldensians themselves, by heroic effort, for there are very few rich men among them. The equipment is of the most modern description throughout, while at the same time the atmosphere of simplicity, so characteristic of the Waldensian population, is by no means lost. The great front windows look out toward the historic valley of Angrogna, so often the scene of fierce persecution. The students will have ever before them a solemn reminder of the terrible price at which their forbears bought the privilege of worshipping God according to the Scriptures.

"On departing, Dr. Tron gave me an inspiring message on behalf of the Waldensian Communities, to be transmitted to their friends in the United States. His closing words were: 'Tell our friends in America that we are grateful for the help they have given us in the past, and that we hope to deserve it in the future by continuing to bear witness to God according to His Word.' Surely, there never was a people more worthy of aid!

"One of the fruits of the first inter-denominational conference of Protestant Churches in Italy, which was held in 1920 and attended by something like five hundred delegates from all over the country, was the resolution to adopt a common hymn-book. This concrete expression of the growing feeling of co-operation among the evangelical churches of Italy was completed several months ago, and is now in general use throughout Protestant Italy, in so far

as Italian is the language of the service. I believe that this 'consolidated' hymnal is the first of its kind anywhere.

"The Methodist Church has completed its new school, situated at the foot of Monte Mario, in Rome, and thus now possesses two high schools in that city. Considerable property has been purchased in that region, and expansion is contemplated as opportunities may arise. The theological training school is to be re-opened in the fall. It is interesting to note that out of the five members of the committee entrusted with the task of editing the new 'consolidated' hymnal, three belonged to the Italian Methodist Church."

FEDERATIONS IN EUROPE

History has been made during the past few years. In Germany a Federal Council, now composed entirely of Free Churches, is assuming substantial form, and it is gratifying to record that its first official action was to receive the message of the American Federal Council. The development of this body is of no slight significance in view of the great national problems facing this new Republic.

The French Protestant Federation has shown the most marked development of any similar organization in Europe. Its foreign mission work and theological schools have long been united.

The Swiss Federation has been responsible for the initiation of many highly important movements, including the Bethesda Conference, and was the body to whom that conference instinctively looked to continue its work. This Federation should have a Secretariat giving entire time to its work, in view of the international tasks committed to it.

While there is no formal Federation in Belgium, the two bodies, together with the new Methodist organization, have assumed closer relationships.

In many other continental countries there has been a marked increase in mutual counsel and co-operation.

In Great Britain the present need seems to be the closer association of the Free Church Council and the Federal Council, and it may be hoped that more intimate relationship with the Anglican Church may be developed.

Taken as a whole, the co-operative spirit is developing in Europe, at least as rapidly as the confused political situation permits.

RUSSIA AND THE NEAR EAST

Many conferences were held with Church representatives and some political leaders, relative to Russia and the Near East. It would be difficult to record the information secured, but it may supplement the reports of our representatives to Russia and the Near East.

ENGLISH SPEAKING CHURCHES

There is evident need for conference with the religious bodies in Great Britain relative to English speaking churches. Some continental cities have none while others have more than needed. There would appear to be need of consultation on the part of these churches themselves. Tourists report one important city where all of the English speaking churches were closed at the same time.

OUR CHAPLAINS OVERSEAS

A visit to Coblenz is of deep interest just now. Our chaplains, Edmund P. Easterbrook and Edward T. McNally, are co-operating heartily in the care of the American soldiers, with the warm support of the other officers.

It is not a mere piece of rhetoric to say that our army on the Rhine is a real peace force. It is evident that it is there not only with the consent but also by the desire of the Germans. The city is quiet, orderly and peaceful under the governorship of General Allen, albeit one is constantly embarrassed by the apparent servility of the Germans, alalthough it appears to be entirely voluntary rather than imposed.

The soldiers are fine in their behaviour and appearance and are evidently picked men. The effect of their presence is good, but one is in some doubt as to whether or not they may be adversely affected in view of the customary rigors of military life to which they must revert. For the present, the maintenance of our forces seems clearly in the interests of peace, and the provision for the moral welfare of the men, through the service of Chaplains Easterbrook and McNally, with the splendid co-operation of the Y. M. C. A., is ideal. Services of worship are held in the chapel of the Palace, and it was gratifying to learn that on Sunday, after service, the American flags are removed so that the Germans may have the use of the chapel.

The serenity of the city was most remarkable because it appeared to be rather free from the sense of military rule, at least so far as that would be possible under the circumstances. It certainly appeared like a situation pretty well agreed to by all parties. While hoping that our occupation may be terminated as soon as possible, it seems evident that it is best for the time being, until political conditions are clearer than at present. General Allen and his staff and force are a distinct credit to us.

THE AMERICAN CEMETERIES IN FRANCE

(The following is the report of the Chairman of the Commission to the American Cemeteries in France.)

"A commission consisting of Rev. Chauncey W. Goodrich, Rev. Charles S. Macfarland (Reserve Chaplain), and the Chairman, representing the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, visited the American cemeteries in France. Three members of the commission visited Belleau Wood, Fère-en-Tardenois and Suresnes; two visited St. Mihiel, and one member visited Bony Cemetery. It is to be regretted that the visit to Romagne was prevented by the breakdown of the automobile, but we have received very gratifying reports regarding this cemetery from one of the Federal Council's Friendly Visitors to Europe.

"The commission desires to express the warmest commendation of the work of the American Graves Registration Service in Paris and of Col. H. F. Rethers and his associates in charge of it. It is evident that the relatives and friends of our boys who fell in France are receiving courteous and painstaking attention and that they are provided with adequate facilities for visiting the graves of their loved ones. Those who are not privileged to do this may rest assured that the representatives of the U. S. Government are acting faithfully in their behalf in their care of the cemeteries. Indeed, the warm personal interest of the personnel in charge, both at the headquarters in Paris and at the cemeteries, was one of the chief matters noted by the commission. It was especially gratifying to find the chaplains, who represent both the nation and the churches of the nation, participating in this service, and the chaplains expressed deep gratification at the message conveyed to them from the Federal Council, which was prepared by the General Committee on Army and Navy Chaplains.

"As an example of the painstaking care for the interests of visiting friends, it may be noted that when the commission visited Bony Cemetery, they found that a car had been sent a long distance, from Cambrai to St. Quentin, to convey the sister of two of the boys whose bodies were to be interred on that day.

"A simple service of prayer was conducted by Dr. Goodrich and the Chairman at Belleau Wood and Fère-en-Tardenois, in which the captain and Chaplains Cleary and Macfarland, Catholic and Protestant together, participated in unity of spirit and expression. At Bony Cemetery a service was held for two boys whose bodies were being interred at the time, which was participated in by Major Chaplain Herbert S. Smith, Captain Chaplain Jacques Pannier of the French Army, and Major Chaplain Macfarland. A religious service is conducted by the chaplain in charge upon each interment, for which a uniform prayer service is used which was prepared by Chaplain Smith. The service at Bony, between the American flag and the Chaplains' standard was beautiful and impressive.

"The cemeteries are at different stages in the process of reconstruction. Romagne and Suresnes are the only ones yet approaching a state of completion, but the trees have not yet been planted, and in some cases the grass has not yet been sown. The wooden crosses have not yet been replaced by the proposed headstones. The grading in most cases has not been completed. Temporary morgues have been built for the caskets awaiting interment, and it is evident that great care is used in the identification and care of the bodies by a very thorough and accurate system. This is the case with bodies still discovered occasionally in the very spots where they fell. The cemeteries are all beautifully located and in most cases are situated on an eminence which makes them visible at a long distance, and gives beautiful views of the country from them. The plans appear to be ideal.

"Of course, nothing uncompleted satisfies the eye or heart, and a cemetery in a stage of development is particularly grating and disappointing, and yet even in their unfinished state, they have a certain beauty—those long lines of wooden crosses with their names so suggestive of the diverse sources of our nation's strength. When we looked upon them we earnestly hoped that no more American parents will wish to bring home their dead. Why not allow the bodies of these boys to lie together in the soil they died to save? Having fought together, why should they not be together in the chambers of death, with the American flag upon a staff in the centre of each cemetery, flying over their graves?

"On coming away we found ourselves thinking not only of the dead but of the living. We were deeply impressed by the tenderness and devotion of the men who are in charge of these burial places. Who could spend a few hours with the alert Captain S. Duncan Campbell and his fine spirited, reverent Chaplain, William D. Cleary, without feeling a new pride in his country and a fresh gratitude that men so fine and noble can be found willing to do the humble and physically unattractive work which they are doing. Their

thoughtfulness and sympathy and self-denying spirit cast a halo round the cemeteries of Fère-en-Tardenois and Belleau Wood, and we felt sure that if bereaved parents could only know of the loving care with which their dead are guarded, their hearts would receive a fresh consolation.

"And what we say of those two heroes we say also of Captain William L. Brown, the genial and manly Texan, Major Chaplain W. K. Lloyd, a prince among chaplains, and First Lieutenant G. E. Dewey, one of the cheeriest and most efficient men of the Quarter Master's Corps. These are the men in charge of the cemetery of St. Mihiel. We do not see how anywhere men could be found better fitted for this important service. At Suresnes we met a caretaker, a veteran of the great war, a youth from Peterboro, N. H., in whose heart burns the same sacred fire of devotion which we had found in all the others. He, too, is proud of his task and feels that his work is a sacred trust. Major Chaplain Herbert S. Smith at Bony, a veteran with an enviable record of hard work, and his sympathetic associate, Captain R. L. Fain, created the same impression of earnest, faithful service, which is being performed under great difficulties, their headquarters being of necessity many miles away from the cemetery, at Cambrai. The circumstances under which these men live, in many cases with families, are very unpleasant if not unwholesome, but there is no suggestion of complaint and their cheerfulness both impressed and rebuked us.

"It is our hope that Congress will never cripple these men in their work by narrow considerations of economy, but will give them whatever they need to make these cemeteries what they ought to be, places of surpassing loveliness, as beautiful to the eye as was the spirit of the dead in the hour of their supreme sacrifice to the soul, and as is the devotion of the men, who, far from home are endeavoring in the face of disheartening conditions to perform a sacred duty to the dust of our immortal dead.

"We were particularly gratified to get this insight into the work of our officers and especially our army chaplains, whose service in time of peace is in many ways more difficult than in time of war. The churches who give them their first and their real commission, ought to maintain the deepest interest in their work and ought to do everything in their power to further it and help them to have the facilities which they need for it. The War Department should, without any question, free them from any real or apparent discriminations or anything whatever that would in any way retard their work which, in time of peace, is in danger of being forgotten and which they are called upon to do almost unobserved by the great body of our people. Let the churches especially remember in their thought and prayer the chaplains and their associates remaining

in France, who are performing this sacred task. We are sure that they have the prayer and gratitude of the multitude of loved ones in whose behalf they render this beautiful service.

1. "We earnestly urge that the plans prepared for these cemeteries be carried out to early completion, without any hesitation so far as the small amount of money involved is concerned.

2. "We recommend and urge that chaplains be associated in the permanent care of the cemeteries, as representing both the churches and the nation.

3. "We recommend that the Federal Council arrange with its representatives in France to have Memorial Day services under the auspices of the Council, in behalf of the American churches and people, held in all of these cemeteries, or as many of them as possible.

4. "We recommend that the Federal Council arrange for the churches at home to join in this special remembrance on each Memorial Day under the direction where possible of the Reserve and National Guard Chaplains, as union services, through a call issued by the Council.

5. "We suggest that this report be conveyed to the Chief of Chaplains with words of appreciation and congratulation and that it be conveyed to the General Committee on Army and Navy Chaplains and the similar Roman Catholic Committee, urging those bodies to impress upon the churches the duty and opportunity of supporting their chaplains and carefully guarding their interests.

6. "We suggest that this report be conveyed to the Secretary of War and the General of the Armies, for information and to express our appreciation.

"In closing, we wish to express our gratitude for the courtesy extended to us by the officers in Paris and the chaplains and other officers at the several cemeteries, and we desire also to express gratitude to the Federal Council for this opportunity of visiting these sacred places.

CHARLES E. JEFFERSON,
Chairman."

GENERAL INTERESTS

I need only briefly refer to other general interests considered. They included conferences with Scout leaders in several countries, and a visit to the Scout camp at Corcy, as a European Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America. The plan outlined in my report of 1918 is being substantially carried out, through co-operative and federative relationship between the several movements in France. Director Lorne W. Barclay has rendered incalculable service to the Scout movement in France, by his patience, tactfulness and efficiency.

Headquarters of the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Foyer Civile, and other works of social welfare, were visited wherever opportunity offered. The adaptation of these forms of work to a peace-time basis, while not without its difficulties, is on the whole gratifying and promising, despite the frequent hostility of ecclesiastical authorities.

Many conferences were held with leaders in political life in an effort to get their point of view for guidance in the work of our Commission on International Justice and Goodwill.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

At the invitation of Hon. Paul Hymans, former president of the League of Nations Assembly, I attended the opening of the Assembly at Geneva, September 4th. It is of interest to note that semi-official religious services, attended generally by the delegates, were held the previous Sunday, the preacher at the Protestant service being the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Assembly was impressive, dignified and serious. The meeting of the League Council, which followed, was illuminating. One felt, with emotion, that here at least in ideal, was the hope, if not indeed the sole hope, of the healing of the nations. One felt the contrast between this free democratic body and the old secret conferences for balance of power and its superiority over the present partial conferences.

Personal conference with members of the League indicated a willingness to make any reasonable modifications which would open the way for the United States. Disappointment was privately expressed at the inability of the League to secure any information as to what the United States does want and regret that the American government sometimes appears to ignore the League even on matters of obvious common concern in which the "interests" of the United States are clearly involved. The utterances of America appear Delphic.

A review of the work and plans of the Humanitarian Commissions was very heartening, while great was the disappointment that our government "finds itself unable to approve" the proposal of the Arms Traffic Convention of St. Germain for the restriction of traffic in arms and munitions of war. However, the League still hopes to find a

basis on which the United States will co-operate in this particular matter, with whose purpose Secretary Hughes expressed sympathy and the desire to co-operate. The Commission on Armaments therefore is trying again, although, as a friend at Geneva put it: "The American government declines our basis, but does not intimate any basis which would meet its approval."

Many prominent Americans were present, including several members of our Commission on International Justice and Goodwill and of the World Alliance.

A visit to the International Court at the Hague assured one of its vitality, and I found both Prof. John Bassett Moore, and André Weiss, the French member, very hopeful of the future of this body, so long advocated by the United States and instituted according to plans formulated by Elihu Root.

As a member of the League remarked to me sadly: "there is one thing, if the League of Nations should break down (it will not), but if it should, the United States bears the responsibility for its failure, and must, at least, propose something to take its place, or else repudiate all that America has stood for in the eyes of the world. On the other hand, were the United States here with us, the League could command the moral consent of the civilized world."

Various Commissions of the League are certainly undertaking some matters in which the United States will wish to co-operate, which do not involve any question of membership.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND RELIEF WORK IN EUROPE

The American Red Cross has for eight years been the symbol of the American soul in Europe. Together with other organizations for relief, it has, since the Armistice been of no less help, and perhaps has been of more help, in strengthening the heart of Europe and quickening its hope. The withdrawal of this moral support at the present moment, would seem to be most unfortunate. To be sure, the wise policy of the Red Cross has been that of initiating work and then gradually placing it upon the responsibility of the European authorities. It has not even initiated new work whenever existing institutions could be vitalized and correlated by its help.

It is understood that a number of nurses are to be left for the service of the Child Welfare Work to which the Red Cross has been confined, and that the development of the Junior Red Cross will continue longer under American guidance. Liberal support is also continued for the League of Red Cross Societies. The continuance and development of the Training Schools, with the help of American workers, is the most promising part of the present plan. During the past year a program of constructive child health has been established in the war stricken countries of Central Europe, including model dispensaries and home visiting. This, it is hoped, will be continued.

I do not know just how far the Red Cross authorities have committed themselves to withdrawal of personnel. I am persuaded that it is too soon to do so and that we should be removing a moral support which means much to Europe at the present moment of distress. I can hardly conceive of a more unfortunate time to do anything which even hints or suggests further isolation. For the past four years the Red Cross has been no inconsiderable factor in maintaining relations which have helped to sustain millions of hearts. It seems necessary that some American doctors and nurses should be left to insure continuance. Moreover, the moral effect of their presence might help greatly in maintaining the strength of the people of Europe until our nation as a whole finds its way.

I understand that the American Red Cross is not without resources, and I suggest that our Committee in Washington inquire into this matter, urging that a sufficient personnel be left in Europe to maintain the strong sense of moral relationship. Such contacts as these between the hearts of the American people and the hearts of the people of Europe are of the highest value at a time when our Government finds itself largely unable to become the organ and channel to convey or to express our friendship for our suffering brethren.

All of our relief organizations have been significant influences in maintaining hope and faith in distressed Europe and their work should be continued.

How do the European peoples feel towards us?, is the question often asked as we return. Their feeling is one of mingled disappointment that has not reached disillusionment and of hope and faith that still persist.

They feel that we have left the field of battle without stopping to bury the dead or to help repair the devastation made by our own artillery. Recognition for our private, philanthropic help is not overlooked and still gives impulses to prayers of gratitude. No rancor is manifested, just disappointment, sometimes, however, almost to despair.

The peoples of Europe are doing the best they can, toiling to rebuild even when they have to seek the straw to make their bricks. One has only to visit Ypres, Dixmude, St. Quentin, Rheims and multitudes of other cities to bear witness to the marvelous recuperative power of our brethren in Europe. One has only to witness the efforts of our Austrian brothers to have his heart stirred to the depths, or to deal in German money to have his sympathies aroused for those men and women in that nation who are sincerely seeking to regain for that people a moral standing in the world. There are expressions of sectional and racial bitterness, of course, there are violent discussions between representatives of governments, but these are not the fundamental difficulties. The problem is fundamentally economic and moral, and it is sheer hard-heartedness to criticise a starving man because he is not calmly rational.

It needs no economic expert to see that M. Poincaré was right when he said that one might as well try to quadrate a circle as to solve Europe's economic problem without the help of the United States. It is equally clear that the leaders are now seeking to establish a formula that the United States will accept without, apparently, any clear intimation from the United States as to what kind of a proposal we want. Waiting for "Europe to put her house in order" is futile, because that is just what Europe needs us to help her do.

One thing is sure: any proposal from the United States that was anywhere near within bounds of reason, would command assent. It is not the relatively trivial question of debt cancellation, it must be a proposal that goes to the very root of the matter. The political leaders know perfectly well that the United States will come into the situa-

tion, first because they believe in the sense of moral obligation of our people and second because of ultimate economic necessity on our own part.

The questions are: Will the United States act before the crash comes, and will America act from a predominantly moral motive rather than to seemingly justify Ambassador Harvey and come when forced by its own economic needs?

If the American people were informed by other than mischievous propaganda, they would rise and direct our government as to their good will and light would break on darkened Europe. Such propaganda is partly political and partly emanating, I regret to say, from small commercial men who after profiteering in America during the war, are now disappointed in their efforts to exploit Europe, through the fluctuation of exchange and the consequent instability of European trade and commerce. Occasionally it comes from tourists who, despite what they claim to be discrimination against them, sometimes boast that they saved enough in one particular country to meet the expense of their pleasure tour.

Our Commission on International Justice and Goodwill, the Church Peace Union and the Association for International Co-operation should now enter upon an immediate educational campaign urging that our nation shall do either of two things: (1) Offer to sit down with the European Nations and formulate a plan for economic reconstitution or (2) make its own formulated proposal.

Here again, I presume my friend at Geneva would say: "If not, and Europe goes down in a mighty crash, a large measure of moral responsibility will rest on America. And, on the other hand, a reasonable proposal from America would command the assent of Europe."

One recalls the new hope that came to the depleted forces of the allies in 1917 and 1918 when the word was passed along the line, "America has come." There would be a new Europe today if the same message ran from heart to heart, "America has come back again." We might go farther than did our friend of the League. Men everywhere are talking and writing and prophesying about "the next war." If there should be a next war, the United States surely could not make use of Pilate's basin, either as to participation in it or a measure of responsibility for it.

Wise men in all countries are thinking very deeply upon a question which does not narrow itself down to any one nation or to any one political party or administration within a nation. How far are our ills due to the lamentable fact that governments act for party considerations rather than solely for the good of the nation? How far do governments seek to express the highest sentiments of the people? How far do they seek intelligent enlightenment of the people as to the good of the nation and of humanity? How far do they allow the people to rest in blind and helpless fealty to party interests?

Can these governments shake off the party shackles that now bind them and leave administrations free to seek the good of nations and humanity without the dead hand of party concern? If any one great nation can answer this question, the rest of the world would react to such moral leadership.

Is it not an obvious and admitted fact that, to put it cautiously, political leaders have, not one concern, but three which sometimes become mutually exclusive: first the obligation to maintain a party administration itself; second, to conserve the interests of a party, often without any clear principles or aims, and finally, the interests of the nation and the world at large. And the latter have to be adjusted to the two preceding.

Is it not clear that the church throughout the world must find her voice and utterance demanding freedom for chief Magistrates and Ministers of State, such as we now have in some measure for the judges of courts, so that the dead hand of partisan and personal politics shall be forever cut off from the body politic.

The present need of the world cannot wait for this, but the same public sentiment that will yet arise to guide our wavering feet, will be but the unconscious expression of this greater, ultimate ideal.

Are these questions for the churches to ponder? No one who was present at the Bethesda Conference or the World Alliance, went away with any doubt that the Gospel of Christ is so great and so all embracing of humanity, as to have in it the moral and spiritual principles which must find their translation into terms large enough so that prophecy shall be fulfilled and the leaves of the tree shall be for **the healing of the nations.**

As probably the largest integrated body of churches in the world, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America has a commensurate responsibility for the future of the Protestant Church as a moral and spiritual power throughout the world and just now Europe is the world's center and will determine its immediate destiny.